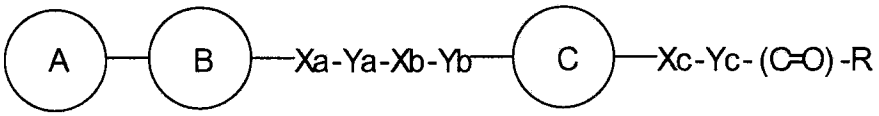
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A compound represented by the formula



(I)

wherein

ring A is a ring optionally having 1 to 3 substituents;

ring B is pyrazole optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Xa~~, Xb~~ and Xc

are the same or different and each is a bond, -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, -CO-, -CS-, $-CR^1(OR^2)-$, $-NR^3-$, $-CONR^3-$ or $-NR^3CO-$ (R^1 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a phenyl group, a trityl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl group, a formyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a benzoyl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl-carbonyl group, a 2-tetrahydropyranyl group, a 2-tetrahydrofuranyl group, a silyl group or a C_{2-6} alkenyl group~~, optionally having 1 to 3 substituents,~~ and R^3 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group selected from a formyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, a benzoyl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl group, a trityl group, a phthaloyl group, an N,N-dimethylaminomethylene group, a silyl group or a C_{2-6} alkenyl group~~, optionally having 1 to 3 substituents~~);

Xb is -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -CO-, -CS-, -$CR^1(OR^2)$-, -NR^3-, -$CONR^3$- or -NR^3CO- (R^1 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a phenyl group, a trityl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl group, a formyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a benzoyl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl-carbonyl group, a 2-tetrahydropyranyl group, a 2-tetrahydrofuranyl group, a silyl group or a C_{2-6} alkenyl group, and R^3 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group selected from a formyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, a benzoyl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl group, a trityl group, a phthaloyl group, an N,N-dimethylaminomethylene group, a silyl group or a C_{2-6} alkenyl group);

Ya is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Yb is a bond or a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Yc is C_{1-6} alkylene;

ring C is a monocyclic aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents; and

R represents -OR^4 (R^4 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR^5R^6 (R^5 and R^6 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or R^5 and R^6 form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring),

provided that,

~~(1)~~ ring C is not thiadiazole or oxadiazole**[[;]]**

~~and~~

~~(2) when Xa and Xb are each a bond, ring C is not a benzene ring,~~

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the ring represented by ring A is an aromatic ring.

3. (Original) The compound of claim 2, wherein the aromatic ring is a benzene ring, a pyridine ring or a pyridazine ring.

4. Canceled.

5. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the substituent that ring B is optionally further having is a hydrocarbon group.

6. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the substituent that ring B is optionally further having is an alkoxy group.

7. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein Ya is C_{1-6} alkylene or C_{2-6} alkenylene.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the monocyclic aromatic ring represented by ring C is a benzene ring.

10. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the monocyclic aromatic ring represented by ring C is pyrazole.

11. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein R represents $-OR^4$ (R^4 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group).

12. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein Xa is a bond.

13. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein Xb is -O-.

14. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein Yb is a bond.

15. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein Xc is a bond or -O-.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) ~~The compound of claim 1, which is~~

2-[3-(3-{3-**[[e]]**Ethoxy-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)phenoxy]-2-methylpropionic acid;

3-[2-ethoxy-4-(3-{3-ethoxy-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)phenyl]propionic acid;

3-[3-(3-{3-ethoxy-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]propionic acid;

[1-phenyl-3-(4-{3-propyl-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}butoxy)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]acetic acid;

[2-(3-{3-isopropyl-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)-3-methoxyphenyl]acetic acid;

[2-(3-{3-(1-ethylpropyl)-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)-3-methoxyphenyl]acetic acid;

(2-{3-[1-(5-chloro-2-pyridyl)-3-(1-ethylpropyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]propoxy}-3-methoxyphenyl)acetic acid;

[3-ethyl-2-(3-{3-isopropyl-1-[6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridazin-3-yl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)phenyl]acetic acid;

[2-(3-{3-isopropyl-1-[6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridazin-3-yl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)-3-methoxyphenyl]acetic acid;

[3-(3-{3-isopropyl-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)-1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]acetic acid;

[1-ethyl-5-(3-{3-isopropyl-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]acetic acid;

[1-ethyl-5-(3-{3-propyl-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]acetic acid;

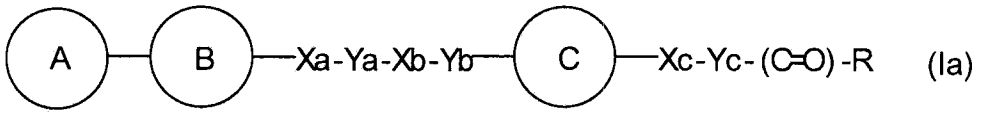
(2-{3-[1-(5-bromo-2-pyridinyl)-3-(1-ethylpropyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]propoxy}-3-methoxyphenyl)acetic acid; ~~or~~

[2-(3-{3-tert-butyl-1-[6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridazin-3-yl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)-3-methylphenyl]acetic acid or a salt thereof.

18. (Previously Presented) A prodrug of the compound of claim 1 or a pharmacologically acceptable salt of the prodrug of the compound of claim 1.

19. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 1 or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

20. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment of ~~type 1 diabetes,~~ type 2 diabetes ~~or gestational diabetes~~ in a mammal in need thereof, which comprises administering to the mammal a compound represented by the formula



(Ia)

wherein

ring A is a ring optionally having 1 to 3 substituents;

ring B is pyrazole optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Xa~~, Xb~~ and Xc

are the same or different and each is a bond, -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, -CO-, -CS-, $-CR^1(OR^2)-$, $-NR^3-$, $-CONR^3-$ or $-NR^3CO-$ (R^1 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a phenyl group, a trityl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl group, a formyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a benzoyl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl-carbonyl group, a 2-tetrahydropyranyl group, a 2-tetrahydrofuranyl group, a silyl group or a C_{2-6} alkenyl group~~, optionally having 1 to 3 substituents,~~ and R^3 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group selected from a formyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, a benzoyl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl group, a trityl group, a phthaloyl group, an N,N-dimethylaminomethylene group, a silyl group or a C_{2-6} alkenyl group~~, optionally having 1 to 3 substituents~~);

Xb is -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, -CO-, -CS-, $-CR^1(OR^2)-$, $-NR^3-$, $-CONR^3-$ or $-NR^3CO-$ (R^1 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^2 is a hydrogen

atom or a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a phenyl group, a trityl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl group, a formyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a benzoyl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl-carbonyl group, a 2-tetrahydropyranyl group, a 2-tetrahydrofuranyl group, a silyl group or a C_{2-6} alkenyl group, and R^3 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group selected from a formyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, a benzoyl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl group, a trityl group, a phthaloyl group, an N,N-dimethylaminomethylene group, a silyl group or a C_{2-6} alkenyl group);

Ya is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Yb is a bond or a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

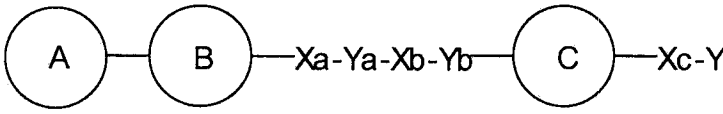
Yc is C_{1-6} alkylene;

ring C is a monocyclic aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents; and

R represents $-OR^4$ (R^4 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or $-NR^5R^6$ (R^5 and R^6 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or R^5 and R^6 form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring),

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

21. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment of hyperlipidemia in a mammal in need thereof, which comprises administering to the mammal a compound represented by the formula



(Ia)

wherein

ring A is a ring optionally having 1 to 3 substituents;

ring B is pyrazole optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Xa~~, Xb~~ and Xc

are the same or different and each is a bond, -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -CO-, -CS-, -$CR^1(OR^2)$-, -NR^3-, -$CONR^3$- or -NR^3CO- (R^1 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a phenyl group, a trityl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl group, a formyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a benzoyl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl-carbonyl group, a 2-tetrahydropyranyl group, a 2-tetrahydrofuranyl group, a silyl group or a C_{2-6} alkenyl group~~, optionally having 1 to 3 substituents~~, and R^3 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group selected from a formyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, a benzoyl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl group, a trityl group, a phthaloyl group, an N,N-dimethylaminomethylene group, a silyl group or a C_{2-6} alkenyl group~~, optionally having 1 to 3 substituents~~);

Xb is -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -CO-, -CS-, -$CR^1(OR^2)$-, -NR^3-, -$CONR^3$- or -NR^3CO- (R^1 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a phenyl group, a trityl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl group, a formyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a benzoyl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl-carbonyl group, a 2-tetrahydropyranyl group, a 2-tetrahydrofuranyl

group, a silyl group or a C_{2-6} alkenyl group, and R^3 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group selected from a formyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, a benzoyl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl group, a trityl group, a phthaloyl group, an N,N-dimethylaminomethylene group, a silyl group or a C_{2-6} alkenyl group);

Ya is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Yb is a bond or a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Yc is C_{1-6} alkylene;

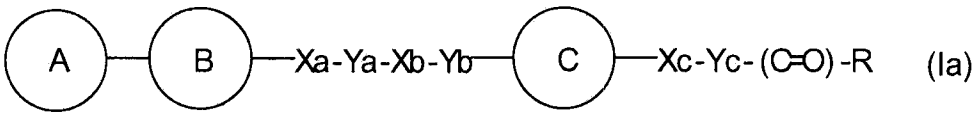
ring C is a monocyclic aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents; and

R represents $-OR^4$ (R^4 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or $-NR^5R^6$ (R^5 and R^6 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or R^5 and R^6 form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring),

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment of impaired glucose tolerance in a mammal in need thereof, which comprises administering to the mammal a compound represented by the formula



(Ia)

wherein

ring A is a ring optionally having 1 to 3 substituents;

ring B is pyrazole optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Xa~~, Xb~~ and Xc

Xb is -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -CO-, -CS-, -$CR^1(OR^2)$-, -NR^3-, -$CONR^3$- or -NR^3CO- (R^1 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a phenyl group, a trityl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl group, a formyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a benzoyl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl-carbonyl group, a 2-tetrahydropyranyl group, a 2-tetrahydrofuranyl group, a silyl group or a C_{2-6} alkenyl group, and R^3 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group selected from a formyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, a benzoyl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl group, a trityl group, a phthaloyl group, an N,N-dimethylaminomethylene group, a silyl group or a C_{2-6} alkenyl group);

are the same or different and each is a bond, -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -CO-, -CS-, -$CR^1(OR^2)$-, -NR^3-, -$CONR^3$- or -NR^3CO- (R^1 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a phenyl group, a trityl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl group, a formyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a benzoyl group, a C_{7-10} aralkyl-carbonyl group, a 2-tetrahydropyranyl group, a 2-tetrahydrofuranyl group, a silyl group or a C_{2-6} alkenyl group, optionally having 1 to 3 substituents, and R^3 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group selected from a formyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, a benzoyl group,

a C_{7-10} aralkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl group, a trityl group, a phthaloyl group, an N,N-dimethylaminomethylene group, a silyl group or a C_{2-6} alkenyl group, optionally having 1 to 3 substituents);

Ya is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Yb is a bond or a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Yc is C_{1-6} alkylene;

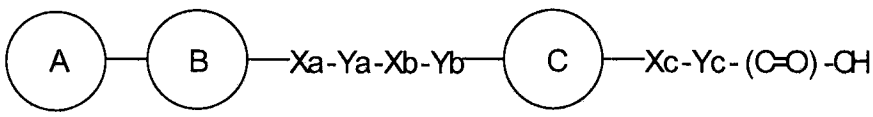
ring C is a monocyclic aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents; and

R represents $-OR^4$ (R^4 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or $-NR^5R^6$ (R^5 and R^6 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or R^5 and R^6 form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring),

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

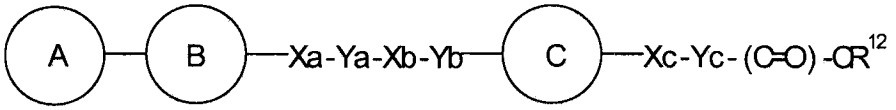
24-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) A method of producing a compound represented by the formula



(I-5)

wherein the symbols in the formula are as defined in claim 1, or a salt thereof, which comprises subjecting a compound represented by the formula



(I-4)

wherein R^{12} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group and other symbols are as defined above, or a salt thereof to a hydrolysis reaction.

32-33. Canceled.